Appl. No. 09/944,049
Amdt. dated January 27, 2004
Response to Notice of Allowance October 29, 2003

PATENT

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 22 with the following amended paragraph (the current amendment assumes entry of the prior change to this paragraph made with the amendment filed February 11, 2002):

~~Figure 2 is~~ <u>Figures 2A-2C present</u> a sequence comparison of the amino acid sequences for human US28 (AD169) (upper sequence; SEQ ID NO:48), rhesus US28.1 (second sequence; SEQ ID NO:6), rhesus US28.2 (third sequence; SEQ ID NO:8), rhesus US28.3 (fourth sequence; SEQ ID NO:10), rhesus US28.4 (fifth sequence; SEQ ID NO:12) and rhesus US28.5 (bottom sequence; SEQ ID NO:14). Regions of sequence similarity are indicated in the boxed regions as determined using the sequence ~~comparision~~ <u>comparison</u> program, SeqVu, from the Garvan Institute, Sydney, Australia. Shaded regions correspond to regions of similar hydrophilicity or hydrophobicity as determined by the SeqVu program.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 3 with the following amended paragraph (the current amendment assumes entry of the prior change to this paragraph made with the amendment filed February 11, 2002):

~~Figure 4 is~~ <u>Figures 4A and 4B show</u> a sequence comparison of the amino acid sequences for human UL33 [Genebank Accession # X17403; see, e.g., Chee et al., 1990, *Curr. Top. Microbiol. Immunol.* 154:125-169] (upper sequence; SEQ ID NO:20), human UL33 spliced (second sequence; SEQ ID NO:22), rhesus UL33 (third sequence; SEQ ID NO:24) and rhesus UL33 spliced (lower sequence; SEQ ID NO:26). Regions of sequence similarity are indicated in the boxed regions as determined using the comparision program SeqVu, from the Garvan Institute, Sydney, Australia; regions of similar hydrophilicity or hydrophobicity as determined by the same program are
shaded.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 23, line 21 with the following amended paragraph:

Appl. No. 09/944,049
Amdt. dated January 27, 2004
Response to Notice of Allowance October 29, 2003

PATENT

Although the degree of identity between certain of the homologs is not particularly high, there are several factors that indicate that the US28 homologs encode proteins having US28 activity. First, as shown in ~~FIGS. 2-4, the~~ FIGS. 2A-2C and FIGS. 4A and 4B, rhUS28 homologs show a relatively high level of similarity with US28 or one of the corresponding human homologs of US28 (e.g., UL33 or UL78). In particular, there is significant similarity in hydrophobicity/hydrophilicity alignments. The various rhUS28 homologs have hydrophobic and hydrophilic regions consistent with the class of 7 member G proteins of which US28 is a member. Additionally, the rhUS28 homologs have positional homology with US28.